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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 WARSAW 000763

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PARM](#) [IR](#) [GG](#) [PL](#)
SUBJECT: POLISH VIEWS ON 27-28 JULY GAERC

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Anthony M. Kolankiewicz for R
easons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: In advance of this month's meeting of the
EU General Affairs and External Relations Council, MFA
European Correspondent Cyryl Kozaczewski said Poland intended
to:

-- Advocate for the extension of the EU Monitoring Mission
(EUMM) in Georgia;

-- Support tougher sanctions against Iran, especially if
Tehran fails to respond to Western, including U.S., offers of
engagement, while noting that the EU focus during this GAERC
will likely be on Iran's post-election turmoil and the
continued detention of French citizen Clothilde Reiss;

-- Endorse any EU conclusions on Somalia that might emerge
from the GAERC; and

-- Ask to raise under AOB the 29 July parliamentary elections
in Moldova. END SUMMARY.

GEORGIA

¶2. (C) Kozaczewski expected Iran and Georgia to dominate
discussion at the upcoming GAERC. On Georgia, he said Warsaw
would support extension of the EUMM through 2010. It was
important to expand the mission in the wake of the departure
of the UN and OSCE missions. To this end, Kozaczewski noted
that the EU was considering a 340-strong complement, a figure
that included local Georgian employees. He added that the
GoP did not have any specific suggestions for U.S.
participation in the mission but, in principle, welcomed U.S.
inclusion. Once the EU formulated a specific position on
U.S. participation, Poland would almost certainly endorse it.

IRAN

¶3. (C) On Iran, Kozaczewski observed that the GAERC's focus
would center on that country's post-election turmoil and how
to respond to the continued detention of Reiss rather than on
Iran's nuclear program. In particular, some EU members will
suggest that the Union explore opportunities to exploit
Iran's internal political rifts. According to Kozaczewski,
the Swedish presidency has called for a "gradual" approach to
the situation in Iran, calibrated to avoid over-reaction to
events, including the detentions of Reiss and, previously,
British Embassy employees, and to respond in-kind to possible
Iranian overtures for dialogue. Warsaw did not oppose this
policy but would press for close coordination between the EU
and U.S. positions. He added that the EU remained interested
in Iran's ultimate response to the Obama Administration's
offers of engagement and would seek to complement U.S.
initiatives, but he acknowledged the existence of an

unofficial deadline (probably no later than the end of 2009) for Tehran to accept the Western olive branch.

¶4. (C) Kozaczewski asserted that Poland would side with EU members that favored a stronger sanctions regime. Warsaw continues to view the nuclear question as the pivotal issue. He pointed to indications, including from the Polish mission in Tehran, that the Iranians were concerned about a tightening of sanctions, especially on financial transactions, because of their negative impact on an already stressed economy. Whether Iranian concern would translate into a more conciliatory response to the West remained to be seen, but Kozaczewski was not optimistic. At the same time, he emphasized that the EU was also not certain how to deal with the possibility of tougher sanctions, particularly in light of the Swedish presidency's preference for a "gradual" approach.

SOMALIA

¶5. (C) Somalia did not rank high on the list of Poland's priorities, Kozaczewski acknowledged, despite the continuing threat of piracy and the deteriorating internal situation in that country. Nonetheless, he expected the EU to reach some conclusions on Somalia during the GAERC, which Poland would likely support. On this note, Warsaw's views tracked closely with the U.S. position, and the Poles will press the EU to assist the African Union to increase the number of AMISOM troops, as well as to aid the Transitional Federal Government to rebuild state institutions and internal security forces.

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Poland will also push the EU to approach Arab/Muslim states to coordinate stabilization efforts in Somalia more effectively.

MOLDOVA

¶6. (C) Kozaczewski said Poland would seek inclusion under Any Other Business of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Moldova. He said FM Radoslaw Sikorski would like to discuss his pre-electoral trip to that country on behalf of the Swedish presidency.
ASHE